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J O H N D E S H L E R*

July 19, 1806 - January 14, 1869

*Family data compiled by the Granddaughter of John Deshler, Sarah Alberta Deshler Bucher, 1916-1917.

Stuck Family data compiled by the Great-Granddaughter of John Deshler, Mrs. Frank Beal, 3467 Stoner Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Contributed by: Mrs. Joseph F. Ruppert, 175 Maplewood Dr., East Lansing, Michigan 48823

The Deshlers and Tuscumbia's Schools

by Eleanor Finley Holder

The lasting effect upon the South of the War Between the States was felt markedly by Tuscumbia whose citizens had given wholehearted support to the Confederacy. Death and destruction which the War brought in such large measure were overshadowed by the heroic courage and lofty ideals of the Southern soldiers, however. Defeat and its aftermath of sadness brought this bit of good to Tuscumbia: while many of her brave sons were lost as a result of the conflict, the memory of one of her bravest and all for which he stood is kept alive in the names of her schools.

"Soon after the War Major David Deshler, the eminent engineer who had been one of the leading spirits in the building of the Tuscumbia and Decatur Railroad, a wealthy man and prominently connected with the growth of Tuscumbia since 1824, and who himself had fought for the Confederacy, conceived the thought of building a girl's college. At this time Major Deshler was a heartbroken father searching for some undertaking by which to perpetuate the memory of his only son, General James Deshler, who had fallen in the Battle of Chickamauga. He bequeathed his home and grounds to be used for that purpose at his death. In 1874 a two-story brick structure was erected in the center of the block covered with forest trees and surrounded by a fence with a 'stile', and the Deshler Female Institute opened its doors for students in September under the principalship of Mr. P. M. Custer. It was only a few weeks before the tornado that swept over Tuscumbia in that year and greatly damaged the Deshler building. While the trustees were devising means by which to repair it, the school continued in the basement of the Baptist Church, under the Rev. Mr. Brown, the Baptist minister. The Masonic Lodge consented to repair the building and in some measure to back the school. This they continued to do till the city acquired their interest in it and erected the Deshler High School on the location of the old school in 1924."* This building was used as the high school until the erection of the new high school on the Winston property in 1952 when the students themselves voted to retain the name of Deshler for their high school. It is an honored name, and the students showed their pride in their heritage by so deciding. The building on the original Deshler property is now known as the Deshler Main Street School and is used by the city as one of its elementary schools. It is fitting that the name of Deshler be retained here also.

The schools had of course been closed in the latter years of the war, the time of the invasion, but "in 1865 the papers announced that the schools would open in the fall. Mr. David Lindsay, brother of Governor Lindsay, had a school for boys in the Session Room of the Presbyterian Church. About 1869 a school for girls was conducted in St. John's Episcopal Church by Miss Mary Keller Newsum. A local paper of 1870 said, 'Tuscumbia can boast of as many good schools as any place in North Alabama. We have the Male Academy presided over by Mr. Owen, a number one teacher; a Boarding and Day School presided over by Miss Anna Pybas, whose reputation as a teacher is fully known and appreciated by this community. We have the two schools mentioned above besides our free schools. Our people can take their choice." The two schools referred to were one conducted by Rev. Robert Moore in the little old brick

*From "Two Hundred Years at Muscle Shoals," by Nina Leftwich

house (still standing) just east of the present Cave Street School and the other advertised as follows: "The Misses Perry, who are highly accomplished young ladies, will open a school for girls at the Baptist Meeting House on Monday, January 2nd. They propose to teach all the branches taught in first class schools with music, painting, drawing and French.' . . . .Miss Anna Pybas taught in her father's home on Sixth Street (the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Carmichael). A private school was also taught by Miss Mary Palmer, who later taught for years in the public schools in Tuscumbia... Among the other beloved teachers in the public school system have been Professor W. F. Trump, who taught for several years before he devoted his life to the ministry in 1907 and served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church until his death in 1926, known and loved by the entire community,"* his daughter, Mrs. Joy Trump Hamlet, who taught for a time; Mrs. Janie Brown Morgan; and Professor R. E. Thompson, Principal of the City Schools from 1921 to 1945. "Not until 1870 did the State regulate and govern the Free Public Schools after the War. Then a license was granted to teach upon the payment of $2.00; consequently these schools did not enjoy a high standing. This fact explains the great number of private schools in the city, until the triumph of the public school system about the end of the century. The outstanding private school was the Deshler Female Institute."* From the above it can be seen that this school filled a real need. Among the teachers who have made the old Deshler a loved memory are Mrs. Ruth Penn Foote and Mrs. Allee Wardlow Jackson.

This time just after the War, the time of Reconstruction, was a difficult time for the South, and for Tuscumbia, who had felt the invader's boot and was crushed financially and physically, although not in spirit. Its former fine schools had been closed and buildings burned. LaGrange Academy, the West Point of the South, was burned as was the Tuscumbia Female Institute which had stood on the site of the present Presbyterian manse. So it was a fine thing for Major Deshler to be instrumental in the establishment of a school at this time, and it is a fitting memorial today to a courageous soldier.

"Many beautiful monuments have been erected on the battlefield of Chickamauga. Alabama has erected a tall and lovely shaft to all her heroes and it fitly exemplifies in its white column the pure-hearted patriotism of her sons. . . .Many states gave sons to both sides, but Alabama at Chickamauga fought only under the Stars and Bars. Her generals helped to win the victory that was the South's - although it became an empty victory. Her men died in their gray jackets on Snodgrass Hill. Of some 14 generals at this battle, one was James Deshler, who died on the field. . . .Where brave Deshler fell, the government has erected a pyramid of cannon balls. It is 10 feet high and is formed of 10-inch shells. It stands in the Kelly Field, scene of heroic fighting. General Deshler, although he commanded Arkansas troops, was a native of Alabama. He was born in Tuscumbia in 1833 and was a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy. Immediately upon the withdrawal of Alabama from the Union, he resigned and offered his service to the Confederate government. It is said that at Chickamauga he risked his life and lost it because he refused to let a staff officer take dangerous duty."**

This account is given of his burial: "Captain Isaac Madding of this district was killed in the same battle as was General Deshler. His faithful servant, Josh, asked an officer to let him go to a saw mill three miles distant to make a coffin. He got the nails from a plank fence, made the coffin

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*From "Two Hundred Years at Muscle Shoals," by Nina Leftwich
**From "Alabama - Her Story One of Glory," by Zella Armstrong

and buried his master. He put the plank he had left about the body of General Deshler, but did not have nails to put them together. Then Josh got a soldier to mark their names on a board and placed it at the head of the graves. After the close of the War the Negro went with James Madding and Major David Deshler to bring the bodies back home."*

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*From "Two Hundred Years at Muscle Shoals," by Nina Leftwich

Inscriptions from Deshler Monuments

The following inscriptions are from the Deshler monuments, tal marble obelisks, at Oakwood Cemetery, Tuscumbia, Alabama:

JAMES DESHLER

A Brig. Gen.

Confederate Army

Born at Tuscumbia Feb. 18, 1833

Fell at the Battle of Chickamauga Sept. 20, 1863

Aged 30 years, 7 months, 2 days

Inscribed to the memory of

MAJOR DAVID DESHLER

Born Sept. 10th, 1798

in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Died Dec. 6th, 1874

in Tuscumbia, County of Colbert,

State of Alabama

Aged 73 years, 2 months and 26 days

A cultivated gentleman

A good citizen

ELEANOR

Wife of

David Deshler

Born
in Lancashire, England
Apr. 17, 1808

Died June 11, 1854

Aged 46 years, 2 months & 25 days

CHARLOTTE ANN

Daughter of

David & Eleanor Deshler

Born
at Tuscumbia
June 13, 1831

Died Apr. 3, 1844

(An iron fence enclosed the graves)

JOHN DESHLER

1806 - 1869

John Deshler	b. July 19, 1806	d.	Jan. 14, 1869
m. 10/14/1827			
Anna Mickley	b. July 22, 1806	d.	
Children:			
1. Walter J. Deshler	b. June 12, 1828	d.	Apr. 26, 1918
m. Urana D. Plate	b. Aug. 1, 1840	d.	Oct. 13, 1897
2. Anna Deshler	b. May 2, 1830	d.	
3. Pricilla Deshler	b. March 27, 1832	d.	
4. Harriet Jane Deshler	b. Feb. 22, 1834	d.	
5. Sally Ann Deshler	b. Oct. 31, 1836	d.	Mar. 20, 1889
(m. Moses Stuck)	b. Feb. 24, 1833	d.	Feb. 18, 1896
6. Margaret Jane Deshler	b. Aug. 13, 1840	d.	

SALLY ANN DESHLER
1836-1889

	Born	Where	Died	Married
Sally Ann Deshler	31 Oct 1836		20 Mar 1889	2 Oct. 1855 at
married on 2 Oct 1855			Royalton Township,	Waterloo, Seneca Co.,N.Y.
Moses Stuck	24 Feb 1833		Fulton, Lyons, Ohio	
at Waterloo, N.Y.	d. 18 Feb 1896		"	
Children:				
Margaret Rosilla Stuck	13 May 1856	Seneca Co., N.Y.	8 Oct 1939	12 Oct. 1873 to Charles Cain
John Franklin Stuck	6 Dec 1857	Seneca Co., N.Y.	8 May 1910	18 Jan 1884 to Gertie Patterson
Mary Ellen Stuck	16 Jan 1860	Seneca Co., N.Y.	8 Feb 1929	19 Oct 1882 to George Whiton
George Washington Stuck	24 Feb 1862	Seneca Co., N.Y.	15 Dec 1929	4 July 1885 to Minerva
Anna Eudora Stuck	22 Jun 1864	Seneca Co., N.Y.	20 Mar 1947	23 Dec 1880 to Thompson Dorrell
ElfrendaStuck	13 Jan 1867		23 July 1931	23 Dec 1888 to George Hillard
Lovina Elnora Stuck	28 Aug 1869	Lenawee Co., Mich.	11 Oct 1913	6 Apr 1890 to James Russell Crepp
Harriet Jane Stuck	26 Aug 1871	Lenawee Co., Mich.	18 Nov 1949	
Sally Ann Stuck	22 Nov 1873	Lenawee Co., Mich.	1 Apr 1889	Daniel Ries
Henry Stuck	24 Sep 1875	Lenawee Co., Mich.		28 Feb 1898 to Myrtle
William Charles Stuck	17 Mar 1878	Lenawee Co., Mich.		28 Apr 1901 to Flora
Cora Edith Stuck	15 Jan 1883	Lenawee Co., Mich.		17 Feb 1904 to Floyd M. Bundy
Estle Moses Stuck	21 Apr 1892	Lenawee Co., Mich.		

DESHLER

Walter J. Deshler		b. June 12, 1828	d.	April 26, 1918
m.	Urana Doty Plate	b. August 1, 1840	d.	Oct. 31, 1897
Children:				
1.	William J. Deshler	b. July 2, 1860	d.	Feb. 23, 1862
2.	Eudora Jane Deshler m. _____Roderick	b. Feb. 4, 1862	d.	June 29, 1893
3.	John G. Deshler	b. Sept. 21, 1868	d.	Feb. 21 Milford, Mich.
4.	Anna Lucinda Deshler m. _____ Pickle	b. Oct. 25, 1870	d.	May 14, 1950 Morenci, Mich.
5.	D. J. F. (Frank) Deshler	b. April 17, 1875	d.	Mar. 19, 1939 Mobile, Ala.
6.	Sara Alberta Deshler m. _____Bucher	b. Jan. 29, 1878	d.	Feb. 11, 1962 Perry, Mich.

JOHN PLATE

1806 - 1873

John Plate		b.	Mar. 11, 1806	d.	Nov. 7, 1873
m.	Lucinda Edgett	b.	July 14, 1807	d.	Dec. 19, 1855
Children:					
1.	William Plate	b.	Jan. 16, 1829	d.	Oct. 19, 1870
2.	Amanda M. Plate	b.	Aug. 22, 1831		
3.	Mary Jane Plate	b.	Sept. 11, 1833	d.	June , 1838
4.	Francis C. Plate	b.	Nov. 13, 1835		
5.	Olive L. Plate m. _____ Ireland	b.	Feb. 13, 1838	d.	Feb. , 1871
6.	Urana Doty Plate m. Walter J. Deshler	b.	Aug. 1, 1840		
7.	Eurastus J. Plate	b.	Feb. 26, 1842		
8.	Edward Plate	b.	July 8, 1844		
9.	Sarah J. Plate	b.	Dec. 30, 1847		
10.	Cassy Plate	b.	May 23, 1851	d.	Oct. 17, 1857

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*Source of information

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